

Internet Message

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Sender **Ann Mary Dussault**
200 W Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802

Phone 406-258-4858

Fax

Vote For HB415

House of RepresentativesLegislator**REP. DIANE SANDS**Seat No. 60E-mail amdussault@co.missoula.mt.us**Representative Sands,**

Missoula County strongly supports HB415 – require parkland dedication in subdivision – and asked that it be introduced. Unfortunately, weather conditions prevent Missoula County staff from testifying before the committee.

Minor subdivisions, especially on a cumulative basis, impact the County's ability to provide recreation spaces and amenities. Each new subdivision brings new residents with needs for neighborhood amenities. Instead of requesting park land dedication from minor subdivisions, we are interested in accepting cash-in-lieu of park land.

Cash-in-lieu money funds the County's Matching Grant Program that enables neighborhoods to make capital improvements in existing parks. Funds received from a park region go directly back to that park region for on-the-ground, neighborhood-inspired projects.

In Lolo, for example, girl scouts are using cash-in-lieu funds to acquire new playground equipment; another neighborhood group has used funds to install a solar-powered irrigation system. Seeley Lake received funds for playgrounds, basketball courts, and trail signs.

Cash-in-lieu funds allow the County to help meet local park needs. Please support HB415.

Thank you,

Ann Mary Dussault for Missoula County